

Listing of the Claims

1. (previously presented) A web transfer mechanism for providing, in a flexible sheet material dispenser, automatic transfer of web feed from a working roll to a reserve roll, comprising:

a main feed roller and a second roller forming a feed nip for receiving therethrough a sheet material web;

a sensing mechanism including a web-sensing member movable between a web-present position and a web-absent position, said web-sensing member resting, in the web-present position, on a pre-feed portion of sheet material web spaced from the working roll and said main feed roller, and extending between the working roll and the main feed roller, and being biased towards the web-absent position;

a stop arm, said stop arm being mounted for movement between first and second positions, responsive to movement of said web-sensing member; and

a transfer arm mounted adjacent to the main feed roller, said transfer arm being biased toward and movable into a transfer position, wherein movement of the transfer arm into the transfer position is operative to drive a leading end portion of sheet material web extending from said reserve roll into the vicinity of the feed nip such that upon driving of the main feed roller, the web from the reserve roll is carried through the feed nip, the transfer arm being held in a set position by the stop arm when said stop arm is in the first position, and being released from the set position to move, independently of said stop arm, to said transfer position upon said stop arm moving into said second position.

2. (withdrawn) A web transfer mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said main feed roller incorporates therein a web cutting knife which emerges from the main feed roller during a dispensing cycle, to cut-off a predetermined length of dispensed web material.

3. (previously presented) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, wherein said web-sensing member comprises a sensor plate that is pivotably mounted adjacent a first edge thereof, and a second edge opposite said first edge contacts said pre-feed portion of sheet material web.

4. (previously presented) A web transfer mechanism for providing, in a flexible sheet material dispenser, automatic transfer of web feed from a working roll to a reserve roll, comprising:

a main feed roller and a second roller forming a feed nip for receiving therethrough a sheet material web;

a sensing mechanism including a sensor plate movable between a web-present position and a web-absent position, said sensor plate resting, in the web-present position, on a pre-feed portion of sheet material web extending between the working roll and the nip, and being biased towards the web-absent position;

a stop arm, said stop arm being mounted for movement between first and second positions, responsive to movement of said sensor plate; and

a transfer arm mounted adjacent to the main feed roller, said transfer arm being biased toward and movable into a transfer position, wherein movement of the transfer arm into the transfer position is operative to drive a leading end portion of sheet material web extending

from said reserve roll into the vicinity of the feed nip such that upon driving of the main feed roller, the web from the reserve roll is carried through the feed nip, the transfer arm being held in a set position by the stop arm when said stop arm is in the first position, and being released from the set position to move to said transfer position upon said stop arm moving into said second position, wherein

said sensor plate is pivotably mounted adjacent a first edge thereof, and a second edge opposite said first edge contacts said pre-feed portion of sheet material web, and

chassis components of said dispenser form a receptacle for retaining a working stub roll, and said sensor plate extends across, and forms a movable cover over, said receptacle.

5. (previously presented) The web transfer mechanism of claim 4, wherein the sensor plate is pivotable about said first edge to an open position permitting placement of the stub roll within said receptacle.

6. (original) The web transfer mechanism of claim 5, wherein at least one finger hole is provided in said sensor plate to facilitate grasping by hand.

7. (currently amended) A web transfer mechanism for providing, in a flexible sheet material dispenser, automatic transfer of web feed from a working roll to a reserve roll, comprising:

a main feed roller and a second roller forming a feed nip for receiving therethrough a sheet material web;

a sensing mechanism including a web-sensing member movable between a web-present position and a web-absent position, said web-sensing member resting, in the web-present position, on a pre-feed portion of sheet material web spaced from the working roll and said main feed roller, and extending between the working roll and the main feed roller, and being biased towards the web-absent position;

a stop arm, said stop arm being mounted for movement between first and second positions, responsive to movement of said web-sensing member; and

a transfer arm mounted adjacent to the main feed roller, said transfer arm being biased toward and movable into a transfer position, wherein movement of the transfer arm into the transfer position is operative to drive a leading end portion of sheet material web extending from said reserve roll into the vicinity of the feed nip such that upon driving of the main feed roller, the web from the reserve roll is carried through the feed nip, the transfer arm being held in a set position by the stop arm when said stop arm is in the first position, and being released from the set position to move, independently of said stop arm, to said transfer position upon said stop arm moving into said second position, wherein:

said web-sensing member comprises a sensor plate that is pivotably mounted adjacent a first edge thereof, and a second edge opposite said first edge contacts said pre-feed portion of sheet material web, and

~~The web transfer mechanism of claim 3,~~ said sensor plate further ~~including~~includes a web sensing finger movable into a slot of said sensing mechanism, the web sensing finger resting

upon the pre-feed portion of sheet material web in the web-present position, and residing in said slot in the web-absent position.

8. (original) The web transfer mechanism of claim 7, said sensor plate further including a plurality of said web sensing fingers, said sensing mechanism including a plurality of said slots aligned, respectively, with said web sensing fingers.

9. (withdrawn) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, wherein said feed roller includes a circumferential groove and said transfer arm includes a web transfer finger that advances into the circumferential groove when said transfer arm moves into said transfer position.

10. (withdrawn) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, wherein the transfer arm is mounted such that upon movement of the transfer arm to the transfer position, and a driving of the feed roller, the leading end portion of sheet material web is carried through the nip and along a path avoiding subsequent contact of the web with said transfer arm.

11. (withdrawn) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, wherein said stop arm includes a coupling end, a stop end and an intermediate pivot axis, said coupling end being depressed to said second position by the web-sensing member moving into the web-absent position, said stop end being disposed to maintain the transfer arm in a set position spaced from said main feed roller when the stop arm is in said first position.

12. (withdrawn) The web transfer mechanism of claim 11, wherein said stop arm has a first arcuate edge surface that allows the stop arm to rotate upwards into said second position in slidable engagement with the transfer arm.

13. (currently amended) The web transfer mechanism of claim 12, wherein said stop arm further includes a second arcuate edge surface adjacent said first arcuate edge surface and which ~~permit~~ permits a free pivotal movement of said transfer arm into said transfer position upon said transfer arm disengaging from said first arcuate edge surface.

14. (withdrawn) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a front shield structure defining a space between the main feed roller and the transfer arm, for presetting and retaining a leading end portion of sheet material web from the reserve roll for subsequent transfer of feed thereto.

Claims 15-16 (cancelled).